

*City of Taunton
Office of the Mayor*



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O'CONNELL HIGHLIGHTS CITY OF TAUNTON COMMITMENT TO ROADS AND SIDEWALKS

Taunton, MA... Today Mayor Shaunna O'Connell and the Department of Public Works (DPW) announced updates regarding the City of Taunton's ongoing work to improve the City's roads and sidewalks. With construction season imminent, the DPW is setting its sights on yet another highly productive year.

"Thank you to the hard-working men and women of the Taunton DPW who work tirelessly each year to oversee the maintenance of the City's roadway and sidewalk infrastructure," said Mayor O'Connell. "This year I am happy to announce the City has proposed to budget \$6.5 million for critical infrastructure projects to rehabilitate the roadways and walkways in our community that are scheduled for maintenance."

The 2023 construction season comes on the heels of a successful 2022 campaign which saw a total of 16.5 miles of roads in Taunton newly paved. The projects completed in 2022 include sections of Bay Street, Burt Street, Caswell Street, County Street, Ingell Street and Washington Street, among many others.

"Mayor O'Connell and her administration have made it a priority to improve the City's infrastructure, particularly its streets and roadways, since taking office," said DPW Commissioner Fred Cornaglia. "Citizens have noticed a significant improvement in the quality of the roads they use every day thanks to increased funding for road maintenance and repair, better coordination between City departments, and the use of new technologies to identify and address problems more quickly."

In 2023, the DPW is poised to follow up last year's efforts with continued work on Bay Street and Burt Street, as well as undertaking new projects which include repaving sections of First Street, Middleboro Ave, Third Street and West Weir Street, to name a few.

"Taunton's transportation network has long been a major asset for residents of our City as well as motorists throughout Bristol County," said DPW Deputy Commissioner Tony Abreu. "It has been highly encouraging to see Mayor O'Connell and her administration direct unprecedented levels of commitment towards investing in our roads and sidewalks over the past three years and again this year."

Since taking office in 2020, the O'Connell administration has earmarked a total of \$27 million towards roadway and sidewalk infrastructure projects. Over four years, this is a total of an additional \$21 million above the \$6 million from state-issued Chapter 90 Program funds which are provided for the purpose of improving and investing in local transportation networks. ###